



SDMS Doc ID 2018754

20 577+

PRESENTATION on CARSON RIVER SUPERFUND SITE to COMSTOCK HISTORIC DIST. COMM.
Wayne Praskins, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1. Why is EPA involved in the Carson River area?

- * The federal "Superfund" law, passed in 1980, gives EPA authority and funding to investigate and clean up historical contamination problems.
- * In 1990, EPA designated portions of the Carson River and tributary areas as a Superfund Site. Nationally, there are more than 1,300 sites.

2. Where is the mercury?

- * In water, sediment, fish, birds, and wildlife in and near the Carson River.
- * In soil near historical millsites, downstream waterways

3. What are EPA's goals?

- * Reduce mercury levels in fish and wildlife.
- * Prevent human contact with most contaminated soils.

4. Cleanup Plans for Dayton and Silver City

- * In 1994-95, EPA mapped millsites in Dayton, Silver and Virginia Cities; tested soil for mercury; and identified five residential areas in need of cleanup.
- * In 1996-97, EPA developed cleanup plans and specifications, solicited bids, and selected cleanup contractor.
- * Cleanup is expected to include excavation of up to 2' of mercury-contaminated soils; replacement with clean soil, gravel, and/or landscaping; and demolition of five structures in Dayton.

5. Historic Preservation Issues

- * EPA hired Virginia City firm to conduct archeological evaluation.
- * Obtained concurrence from SHPO that archeological sites were not eligible for National Register of Historic Places.
- * EPA intends to conduct archeological monitoring during excavation of areas where significant cultural resources may be present.
- * EPA is evaluating the cost and feasibility of regrading the hillside adjacent to several homes in Dayton (MS004) to stabilize erosion-prone areas. Regrading hillside may require:

- ... excavation of soil/tailings at former Birdsall/Douglass mill;
- ... removing portions of historic and non-historic walls
- ... filling or removing a portion of a historic ditch

- * Hillside is adjacent to but outside of Nat. Landmark and Comstock Historic Dist.

